Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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CONFIDENTIAL JIDDA 7591

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, SA, B

SUBJECT: KING BAUDOUIN VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

REF: PARIS 29129

- 1. KING BAUDOUIN ENDED A FOUR-DAY VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA NOV 7. THE BELGIAN MONARCH WAS GIVEN A WARM, ELABORATE RECEPTION OF THE KIND RESERVED BY THE SAUDIS FOR VISITING ROYALTY (INCLUDING A SPECIAL HORSE RACE, FIRST SINCE THE LATE KING FAISAL'S DEATH, IN HIS HONOR). THE VISIT WAS WIDELY COVERED BY THE MEDIA; THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FIRST ANNOUNCED HIS COUNTRY'S SUPPORT FOR A PALESTINIAN STATE (ETAT) OVER RADIO RIYADH.
- 2. MEETINGS BETWEEN THE TWO KINGS WERE CONFINED TO EXCHANGES OF VIEWS ON THE JERUSALEM ISSUE. (SEE REFTEL) THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND CROWN PRINCE FAHD CHAIRED THEIR RESPECTIVE WORKING GROUPS.
- 3. AT THE END OF THE VISIT A JOINT STATEMENT WAS ISSUED IN WHICH BOTH COUNTRIES AGREED THAT "THE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE" BE RECOGNIZED, ALSO AGREED UPON WAS QUICK CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC AND CONFIDENTIAL

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TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. AFTER

SALUTING PREPCON II AND THE UPCOMING CONSUMER-PRODUCER CONFERENCE, THE TWO COUNTRIES AGREED THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON A CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT WOULD START IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. COMMENT: A BELGIAN EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE CALLED THE VISIT SIGNIFICANT AND REMARKED THAT THE SAUDIS PULLED OUT ALL

THE STOPS TO MAKE THE KING'S DAYS IN SAUDI ARABIA MEMORABLE. THE STATEMENT ON THE PALESTINIANS IS CONSIDERED BY THE BELGIAN EMBASSY THE MOST SYMPATHETIC TOWARD PALESTINIAN NATIONHOOD YET MADE BY AN EEC MEMBER. THE BELGIAN DELEGATION CONSIDERED THE ECONOMIC-TECHNICAL AGREEMENT DRAFT SUBMITTED BY THE SAUDIS TOO IMPRECISE FOR THEIR SIGNATURE DURING THE VISIT, BUT AFTER IT IS LICKED INTO SHAPE AN AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED. AKINS

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